

State Officer Candidate Activities

Application

A local chapter may have no more than two candidates file for state offices with the exception of Parliamentarian.

Applications are due in the state adviser's office approximately one month preceding the first day of the state conference, the exact date to be announced to all local chapters no later than January preceding the state conference. The state adviser may extend the deadline only for those offices which have less than two candidates. The State Adviser will send a list of officer candidates to verify the office sought. At that time an applicant may elect to change to another office.

A candidate must be present for the entire conference.

Campaign Material

A resume or announcement of candidacy may be mailed to local chapters. It should be mailed to the state adviser at the same time.

Campaign material will be reviewed by the board of directors. Any material of a questionable nature will be referred to the board of directors. The board of directors will make a decision on the status of the material. It will have the power to disallow the use of the material or to disqualify the candidate. Any decisions on questionable material will be announced before campaigning starts.

Campaign material may not be affixed to any wall or surface. Campaign favors may only be handed out during campaigning as scheduled in the state conference program. Candy, beverages, or other foodstuff used as campaign favors must be a kind that has been prepackaged by the manufacturer. Money cannot be used as a campaign favor.

Each officer candidate's informational campaign material will be limited to one 8 ½" x 11" sheet of paper. One copy per chapter must be received in the state office by April 1 for inclusion with each local chapter's registration materials.

Briefing Session

State officers and members of the board of directors will assist with the briefing of candidates. State officers should conduct the meeting. Board members may initiate questions or comments.

Advisers must accompany candidates into the briefing. Advisers may ask questions about the office, but they should not answer questions directed to the candidate.

Candidate's Speech to Voting Delegates

Local chapter voting delegates should attend the meeting at which candidates present their qualifications.

A candidate may NOT observe other speeches for his/her same office, and may observe speeches for other offices only AFTER giving his/her own speech.

Candidates are encouraged to give more detailed background information on their record of service, scholarship, memberships, and school activities at this meeting. Candidates are considered as nominees when they have completed this activity. They will not have to be nominated by someone else.

The candidate himself/herself must speak for at least one minute of the time allowed. This meeting will be open to all delegates when space permits.

A schedule of appearances will be provided for the candidates. They will have at least two minutes but no longer than five minutes.

Campaigning at the Conference

Each candidate will be assigned a table in the campaigning area. Table decoration may not start until the time announced in the program for campaigning. No candidate may hand out any campaign material, candy or propaganda (no signs, t-shirts, stickers, buttons, or business cards, etc.) outside the campaign area.

Voting Delegates

The number of voting delegates is determined by the local chapter membership as outlined in the state bylaws. Voting delegates will be identified by name badges of a special color. Advisers will not have to register the names of voting delegates.

Primary Election

A primary election will be held to reduce the number of candidates for each office to only two. The election will be open to candidates, local chapter voting delegates, local chapter advisers, and state committee members.

During the primary election, delegates will be seated by districts.

A chapter must have a certified voting delegate present at the time of the election for each vote it is allowed except that proxy voting is permitted at the primary election if a voting delegate has a conflict with a competitive event and no other eligible persons are available from the same local chapter. No voting delegates may be seated late.

All candidates for a specified office will be reintroduced preceding the voting for that office.

Elections will be held in the following order: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Reporter.

Before the voting is conducted, the state vice president will verify the number of eligible voting delegates.

The two candidates for each office with the highest number of votes will be the candidates entered in the general election. Should there be a tie for the second highest position, the tie will be broken using the same procedure as given in Article VII, Election, Section 5 of the Bylaws.

Candidates do not have to be present after the introduction if they choose not to be.

General Election

Voting delegates will be seated in a special section by districts. To cast the total number of votes for which it is eligible, a chapter must have a certified voting delegate present at the time of the election for each vote it is allowed. Proxy voting is not allowed.

All candidates for a specified office will be introduced preceding the voting for that office. Elections will be held in the following order: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Reporter. A lack of simple majority in the vote for any office results in another round of voting with the candidate having the least number of votes being removed from the running until a candidate receives a majority vote.

A tie in the vote for any office to determine the two general election candidates will result in a runoff to break the tie. If the runoff vote for the office does not break the tie, the outgoing elected officers and the incoming council members who are present are to cast one vote each to break the tie.

Before the first round of voting, the state vice president will verify the number of votes by asking district presidents or representatives to give a report of delegates seated in his/her district.

If one candidate from a chapter has been elected, the other candidate from the same chapter will be withdrawn.

If caucus is necessary between rounds, it should be limited to two minutes.

No voting delegates may be seated late.

Installation

Usually the installation will be conducted by the president.

All officers, including the parliamentarian, must be present for installation or forfeit their office.

See the bylaws for additional information in Article VI, VII, and VIII.